BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth
Ministry of Education
EDUCATION REPORT

Issue No. 50

In The News

Summerland Strongstart BC Centre Open for Preschoolers

$10.4 Million for New Clean-Technology School Buses

Two New Strongstart BC Centres Open for Preschoolers

B.C. Proclaims Paralympic School Week

Cawston Strongstart BC Centre Open for Preschoolers

Contact Information

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

Telephone:
250-387-1977

Fax:
250-387-3200

E-mail:
minister.educ@gov.bc.ca

Links

- Media Room
- StrongStart BC
- LearnNow BC
- School Choices
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Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

Remembrance Day is on Tuesday, November 11th and this date provides B.C. students an opportunity to learn more about Canada's historic and present-day peace-keeping activities. One WWI Canadian veteran is still alive and thousands of troops are presently serving overseas.

One way that teachers can bring Canadian history and current events to life for our students is to encourage them to write a letter to a soldier. This could tie in effectively to Language Arts or Social Studies curriculum and would help students understand that Canada still has soldiers serving in other parts of the world, and at home.

Schools are encouraged to send a parcel of letters to the troops for free. Sponsored by the Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces, the following website identifies addresses where students can send a letter to a Canadian Forces Member:
www.forces.gc.ca/site/Community/Messageboard/addresses-2_e.asp

I hope that you will join with me in encouraging students to think about our soldiers serving today, as well as remembering those who have served in the past, as part of Remembrance Day.

Paralympic School Week

Minister Shirley Bond takes part in the kickoff of the first Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week in Richmond. She's joined by MLA John Yap, VANOC Executive Vice-President of Celebrations and Partnerships David

Guscott, Paralympic gold-medallist Todd Nicholson and Vancouver 2010 Paralympic mascot Sumi at James McKinney Elementary. Read more.

HOT TOPIC

The Foundation Skills Assessment is an important tool that helps the Province, school districts, schools and school planning councils measure student achievement and to make plans for improving student achievement. The results of the FSA also provides parents with a clearer view of their child's level of achievement.

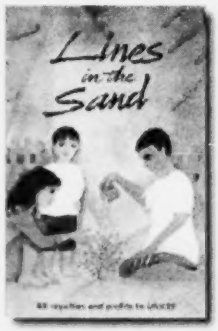
The Ministry and school districts use data from the FSA results to determine if additional steps or innovative strategies need to be taken to improve student performance. Superintendents of achievement discuss the FSA results individually with district superintendents, who are accountable for achievement results in their districts. Parents also receive a report of their child's results, which gives them a more complete idea of how well their child is doing in school. The FSA is about providing constructive information to help parents, teachers and school districts offer the best education possible to our students.

The FSA has been in place for almost 10 years and experts, including B.C.'s own Representative for Children and Youth, have found it to be a useful tool. The First Nations Education Steering Committee views the FSA as a useful tool for addressing aboriginal student achievement. A number of boards of education and parents have also expressed support for the FSA.

The FSA is a part of government's accountability to the public and its responsibility to parents. Parents want to have as much information as possible about how their children are doing in school and how they can help their child improve. Parents of students in grades 4 and 7 can find key facts, sample questions and tests, tips on preparing students, and a rundown of what to expect in the FSA at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/.

Reading Corner

This month's book selection is an anthology of poetry and prose about the effects on individual people: civilian and soldier, enemy and ally. Through more than 150 poems, stories and pictures, the book covers many conflicts including Iraq, both World Wars, the Falklands, Nigeria, Kosovo, the Spanish Civil War, Croatia and Cyprus. All the royalties and profits from this book go to UNICEF's emergency appeal for the children of Iraq.



Lines In The Sand